

National Search Is On for Pony Express Data

There is to be a national scale with the avowed purpose of compiling the story of the Pony Express of 1860-1861 as one of the most thrilling chapters in United States history is to stress the participation of a million Boy Scouts and thousands of editors, city fathers, librarians, historians and citizens for the next several weeks. So stated Dr. Howard D. Driggs, president of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association, which is sponsoring the project, in a bulletin issued from its headquarters in New York city.

From the horses which mark the routing of the Pony Express to Cody on the tip of Laramie Mountain to the obscure graves of some 200 other pony riders, station keepers and promoters scattered all over the land will come memorial tributes to these pioneers on May 30, this year. They carried the first express mail between St. Joseph and Sacramento, Cal., and were later to play significant roles as army scouts in the preservation of the Union.

Citizenry Asked to Help.

An appeal to the citizenry of the nation to aid in the search for survivors—if there are any—and for unknown graves, and to relocate the remains of old stations and long obliterated portions of the trail between now and Memorial day is part of the widespread program announced by Doctor Driggs. Boy Scouts of the cities and towns along the Western routes have already pledged themselves to decorate the known graves with flowers and insignia on May 30.

Dr. James E. West, chief scout executive of the Boy Scouts of America; Dr. John H. Finley, noted editor and often referred to as the "dean of American educators;" philanthropists like Miss Anne Morgan, Vincent Astor, Herbert Pratt and many others have been caught with the spirit of the enterprise, Doctor Driggs asserted. He is professor of English education at New York University and the membership of his association covers nearly every state in the Union.

Frye Conceded First Rider.

"We want first to complete the roster of the Pony Express," Doctor Driggs stated especially the graves of the pioneers who blazed the pathway of communication from East to West. We know many of them now but our quest for these has lasted for years.

"For example, it is generally conceded that Johnny Frye carried the first pony mail from St. Joseph to Sacramento, April 3, 1860, and that he was later killed as a United States army scout, serving under General Blount. Then, there was Bolivar Roberts, who was said to be the best judge of horse flesh west of the Missouri, and Ben Picklin, who had charge of the Western end of the line.

"We have records of Finney, who took out the construction gangs which built the stations along the Western end of the 2,000-mile trail of H. J. Foyt, the remainder of whose station in the Utah desert bear the name today of Maj. Edward Mann and Charles Smith. We have the story of Gen.

Feeter Rockwell, the hard-riding, straight-shooting Utah pioneer, whose legend has made both singer and agent, and Warren Upson, son of the proprietor of the old Sacramento Union, battling his way through twenty feet of blizzard snow.

"We must arouse the patriotism of the nation to locate and preserve the deeds of those young heroes who helped nobly to save California and the West for the Union. We want to perpetuate their exploits with markers and monuments; their courage and character as an inspiration to our modern youth; their place in history, as the high light of a fleeting era."

RECALLS HIS PART IN EVENT.

W. E. Richardson Again Tells of Ride of Pony Express.

William E. (Billy) Richardson, eighty-seven years old, told again last night how he had taken part in the inauguration of the Pony Express. The Transit House resident was "nosing around at the Pony Express barn, like a small boy will be when the express was getting ready to start." He hopped on his pony and the express agent threw the mail to him as a joke. Richardson rode with the mail to the river and gave it to Johnny Frye.

Frye, or Frey, always has been generally credited in St. Joseph as being the first rider from here. Richardson said last night that he believed Frye rode beside him on the way to the river. The express agent was Paul Coffey, Richardson's half-brother.

*Comment - The
by H.P.D. - when
news article was
received.*

*This is a
rather common
way to treat
one who was
first rider
at St. Joe, of
the Pony Express
"Billy" Richardson
gives a frank state-
ment on the interest-
ing small part he
had in it. Johnny
Frye on.*

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